

John Reich Journal

Volume 23 / Issue 1 April 2013

JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1680 Windham, ME 04062

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues $25.00
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The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: 1804 B1 Draped Bust quarter exhibiting the rare die cracks on the obverse from the Eric P. Newman collection. This illustration is featured on page 18 of Early Quarter Dollars of the United States Mint by Rory Rea, Dr. Glenn Peterson, Bradley Karoleff, and John Kovach. Photo credit Rory Rea.

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Editors' Comments

The hobby of numismatics lost a giant on Saturday April 13. Henry Hilgard, noted collector and researcher passed away after collapsing in his garden. Henry was one of those rare individuals that put the good of the many before the good of the individual. He was always there with helpful insights into the hobby. Henry not only contributed mightily to the JRCS with his articles (a dozen including his final one in this issue) but to all of numismatics with his extensive knowledge of error coins. Henry's article The Case of the Missing Edge Letters garnered him the coveted Jules Reiver Literary Award for volume 21 of the journal. His influence can be found in many of the past, and future, articles for our journal. He will be sorely missed by all his friends and colleagues.

The annual meeting of the EAC/JRCS is only days away. We will be gathering in Heath, Ohio (Columbus) on May 2-5. The Thursday evening silver happenings will include the study of the following coins:

1836 LM1 half dime, 1820 JR2 Dime, 1836 B3 quarter, and 1807 O111 and 1823 O109 half dollars.

Please bring your coins to the happening to display next to those of other members for a fun and educational evening. There will be educational presentations on Friday and Saturday as well as displays for your enjoyment. The bourse will be open Friday through Sunday for selections to add to your collection. We expect a wonderful time. I hope to see you there.

We also need to begin thinking of the annual meeting at the ANA convention in Chicago. The annual meeting of the JRCS will occur on Wednesday morning August, 13 at 8:00. We will announce the meeting room as soon as it is assigned to us. We will also have an educational presentation by David Finkelstein at this meeting. I hope you plan to attend the largest coin event of the year.

We are requesting information from all our half dime collectors to participate in the census which will be published in the next issue of the journal. Please send your information on your front line set, duplicates and die states to Steve Crain to be included in this important event.

NOTICE

Half dime census information is now being solicited for inclusion in the July pre-ANA issue of the John Reich Journal.

Please send your complete inventory listing (including all duplicates and die states) of all your 1792, Draped Bust, Flowing Hair and Capped Bust half dimes to:

Stephen Crain at: mrhalfdime@aol.com

Or mail hard copies to: Stephen A. Crain | P.O. Box 1680 | Windham, ME 04062

Please respond *before* May 30, 2013 to ensure inclusion of your collection in this census.

Remembering Henry Hilgard

Bradley S. Karoleff, NLG

When a friend passes from this life to the next adventure those remaining always have a favorite story, or two, to tell about their relationship. I would like to share one with you about Henry.

Before the 1994 ANA show in Detroit, Michigan there was a meeting of Bust Half Nuts at David Finkelstein's house in the suburbs. It was an interesting cab ride to David's house and I arrived a little after the festivities had begun. Henry was seated at a card table with a group of "Nuts", a coin residing on a felt pad in the center of the table. As I walked by I commented on the wonderful unlettered edge Capped Bust half dollar. One of the "Nuts" questioned how I knew what the coin was with only a glance as I motored by the table. I responded that it was obvious by the large size of the flan and the way the perimeter sloped that the planchet had not been upset in the Castaing Machine before striking. Henry just sat there and smiled. I had no idea it was his coin at the time.

Sometime after that the unlettered edge 1812 half dollar became the property of Russ Logan. Russ loved the error coins as much, or maybe more, than Henry. It was part of the Logan collection sale by Bowers and Merena in 2002. I coveted this coin, but was unable to afford the $2800 price it brought in the sale. Sometime later the coin reappeared in an error dealer's offerings at multiples of the selling price in Russ' auction. I had given up all hope of ever owning this wonderful coin.

A few years later I was in Long Beach for the coin convention and stopped by Sheridan Downey's table to visit and look at the coins offered there. Henry was helping at the table as was the custom. When I walked up to the table he reached into his pocket and produced "The Coin". I examined her and was very happy that she had again been entrusted to someone who appreciated her beauty and rarity. After I returned her to Henry he asked why I had not asked if it was for sale. I countered with the fact that I knew about the history of being in the error dealers stock at an exorbitant price and "knew" I could not afford it. Henry countered with I still had not asked price. I proceeded to ask the question still knowing the outcome of the conversation. Henry quoted a VERY reasonable price, but as I had two tuition payments at the time I responded that I would love to own her but could not afford even his reasonable price. Henry countered that he would accept payments over an unlimited time as he thought the coin should be owned by someone who loved it as much as I did. I finally relented and accepted his terms. On the plane ride home I decided to pull things from the safe deposit box and begin selling until I could pay Henry in full. The transaction was soon completed.

The 1812 O103 AU unlettered edge half dollar now resides in my collection. I treasure the provenance of Elton Dosier, Henry Hilgard, Russ Logan, Henry Hilgard, Brad Karoleff. Someday I will find someone who loves her as much as all of us have and make sure she continues to have a happy home.



Heraldic Eagle Die Analysis: Half Dollar / Eagle Letter Punches

David Finkelstein

Introduction

As a result of the research performed by Harry Bass, David Davis, Robert Hilt II, Russell Logan, Alan Lovejoy, John McCloskey, and especially Ed Price, we now know that Heraldic Eagle Dime and Quarter Eagle reverse dies were interchangeable. There are multiple Dime and Quarter Eagle die marriages where the reverse die used on the Dime is the same reverse die used on the Quarter Eagle. Based on die deterioration, we also know the die usage progression between the Dime and Quarter Eagle denominations.

When a coining die[1] became unusable, a replacement die could be used in its place to keep production going. The trick was to have the appropriate number of completed head dies[1] and reverse dies in reserve. This number of dies was Robert Hilt's "*Group Strength*". Each denomination had its own Group Strength because there were different production demands for each denomination.

After a coining die was completed, it was placed in a storage container. There could be no doubt in anyone's mind that Dime and Quarter Eagle reverse dies were stored in the same container, as they were used interchangeably. What about Half Dollar and Eagle reverse dies? Were they stored in the same storage container? Since Half Dollars and Eagles were approximately the same diameter (32.5 mm and 33 mm respectively), it seems logical that their reverse dies could be used interchangeably.

Multiple people (including myself) have analyzed the Heraldic Eagle reverse Half Dollar and Eagle dies. No Heraldic Eagle reverse die has ever been mated with both a Half Dollar and Eagle head die. How could it be proven that the Mint did not specifically create Half Dollar reverse dies and Eagle reverse dies, and that they created reverse dies that could be used with either Half Dollar or Eagle head dies?

Supplementing Nyberg's, Dannreuther's and Brown's Research

John (JD) Dannreuther's "Response to the Broken F Issue on the Reverse of Half Dollars and Eagles (1804-07)" and Bill Nyberg's "Master Die and Hub Changes for 1801-1807 Half Dollars, and Integration with 1799-1804 Gold Eagle Reverses" articles were published in the June 2007 issue of the JRJ. Bill Nyberg proved that Half Dollar and Eagle reverse dies originated from the same Hubbs[1]. All Half Dollar and Eagle reverse dies from Bill's *Reverse Hubb of 1803* used large stars above the Eagle's head. Bryce Brown identified that all of the Half Dollar and Eagle coining dies that originated from the *Reverse Hubb of 1803* had 153 dentils. The Hubbs were the same. The stars above the eagle's head were the same. The dentil counts were the same. What about the letters? Were the letter punches the same? Both Bill's and JD's articles mentioned the defective A and F letter punches, but provided no images.

To supplement Bill's and JD's research, I propose the following. If a defect occurred on a Half Dollar reverse die letter, and the same defect occurred on the Eagle reverse die letter, then the same defective letter punch was used on both dies. If more than one defective letter punch was used on both Half Dollar and Eagle reverse dies, then one can assume that all letter punches used on Half Dollar reverse dies were the same letter punches used on Eagle reverse dies. If the letter punches were the same, and the Hubbs, dentils, and stars were the same, then the dies were one and the same.

A & F Letter Punch Analysis

Two reverse letter punches on 1801-1807 Half Dollars and 1799-1804 Eagles appear in both complete and broken states – the A and the F. The 3 uses of the letter A on the reverse are identified as: the A in STATES (A1), the first A in AMERICA (A2), and the last A in AMERICA (A3). The breakdown, by state, of the punches is as follows. In each figure, the first A pictured is A1, the second A pictured is A2 and the third A pictured is A3.

Keep in mind that the year associated with a reverse die is the year of the head die that it was first mated with. This does not mean that the reverse die was created in that year. There is no way to determine, with 100% accuracy, in which year a specific reverse die was created.

Punch State 1: A1, A2 & A3 Complete, F Complete (see Figure 1):

1. 1799 $10 Reverse A, B, C, D, E, F
2. 1801 50C Reverse A, B (same as 1802 Reverse A)
3. 1801 $10 Reverse A
4. 1803 50C Reverse A, B, C (same as 1805 Reverse H)
5. 1803 $10 Reverse A, B, C
6. 1805 50C Reverse A, E

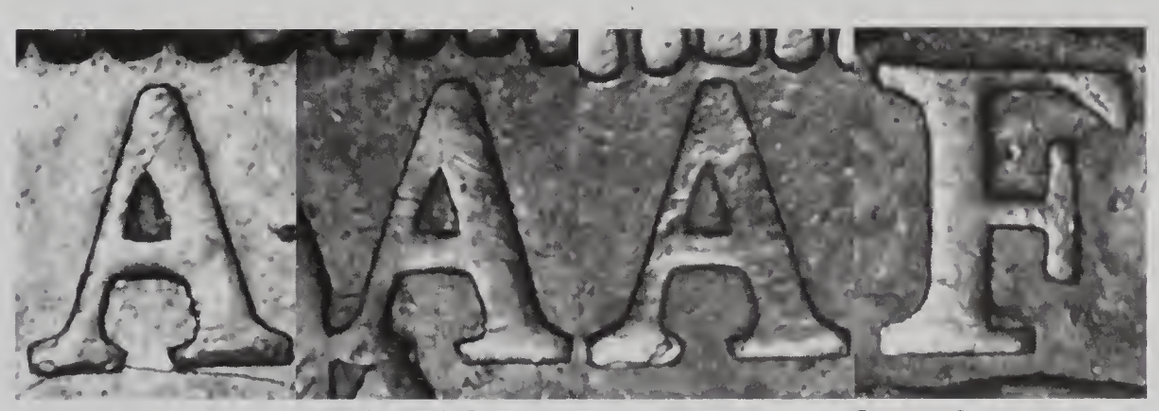


Figure 1: 1801 50C Rev B - All Letters Complete

Punch State 2: A1 & A2 Complete, Inside Right Serif of A3 Broken, F Complete (see Figure 2):

1. 1803 $10 Reverse D

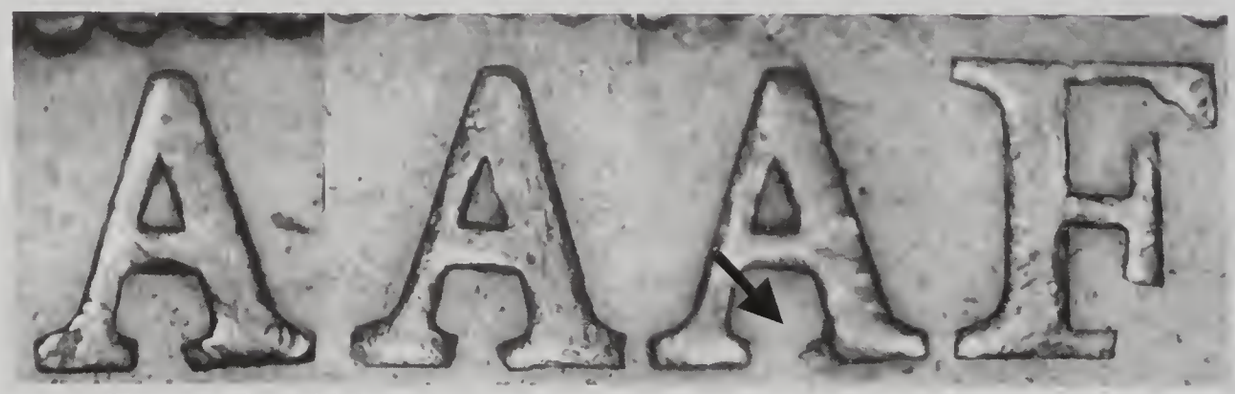


Figure 2: 1803 $10 Rev D - Inside Right Serif A3 Broken

Punch State 3: Inside Right Serif of A1 Broken, Inside Right Serif of A2 & A3 Missing, F Complete (see Figure 3):

1. 1803 $10 Reverse E (used on both 1803 $10 BD-6 & 1804 $10 BD-1)

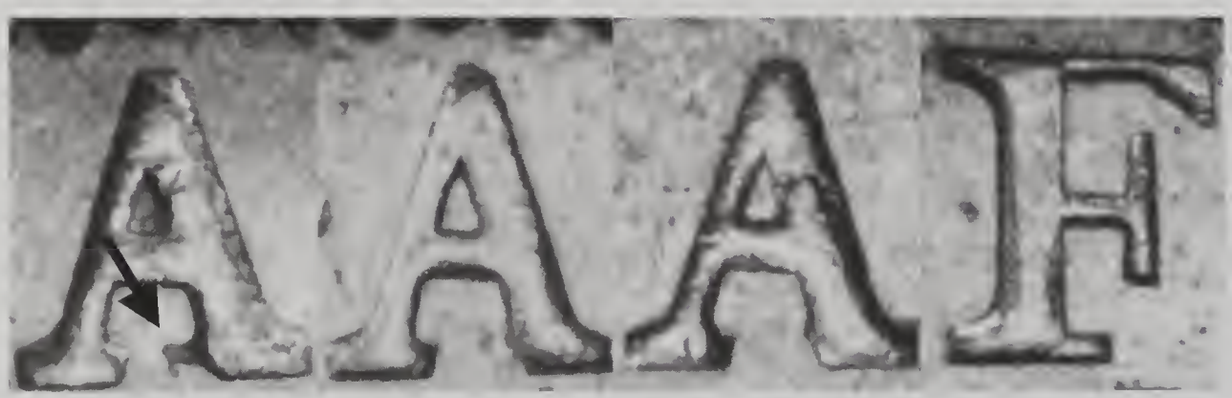


Figure 3: 1803 $10 Rev E - Inside Right Serif A1 Broken & Inside Right Serif A2 & A3 Missing

Punch State 4: Inside Right Serif of A1, A2 & A3 Missing, F Complete (see Figure 4):

1. 1805 50C Reverse B (same as 1806 Reverse D), G, I
2. 1806 50C Reverse E



Figure 4: 1806 50C Rev E
Inside Right Serif A1, A2 & A3 Missing, F Complete

Punch State 5: Inside Right Serif of A1, A2 & A3 Missing, Lower Right Serif of F Broken With Pointy Tip (see Figures 5-A & 5-B):

1. 1805 50C Reverse C, D, F
2. 1806 50C Reverse A, B, C, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M (same as 1807 Reverse F), N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U
3. 1804 $10 Proof Reverse A (struck circa 1834-1835)

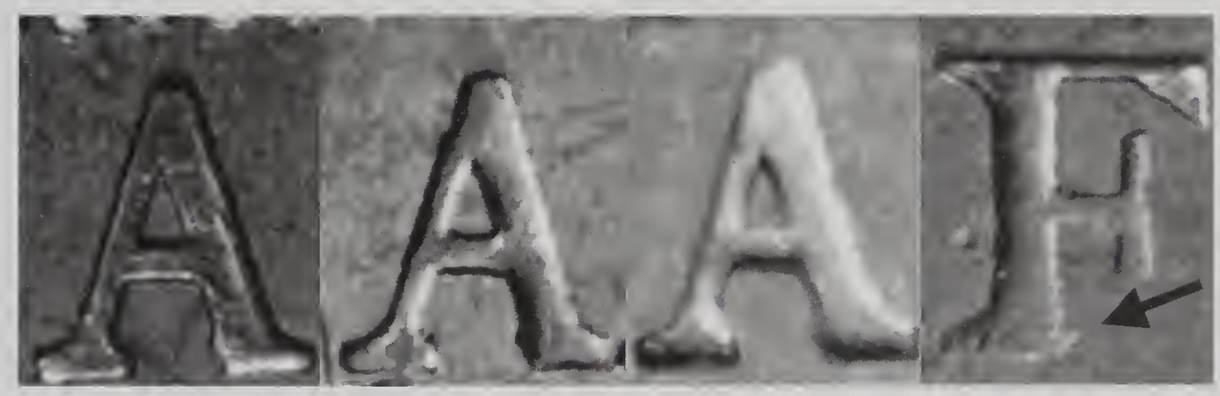


Figure 5-A: 1805 50C Rev D - Inside Right Serif A1, A2 & A3 Missing, Lower Right Serif F Broken (Pointy Tip)

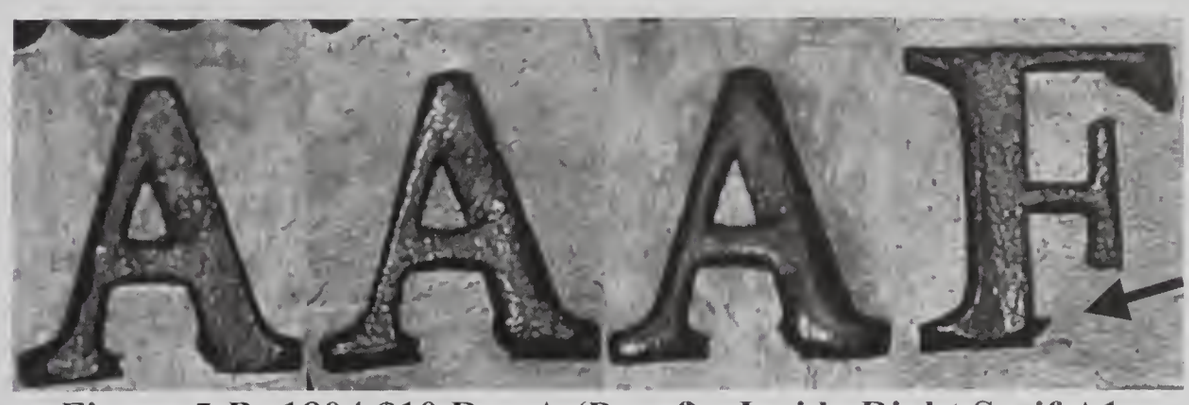


Figure 5-B: 1804 $10 Rev A (Proof) - Inside Right Serif A1, A2 & A3 Missing, Lower Right Serif F Broken (Pointy Tip)

Punch State 6: Inside Right Serif of A1, A2 & A3 Missing, New F Punch (see Figure 6):

1. 1807 50C Reverse A, B, C, D, E

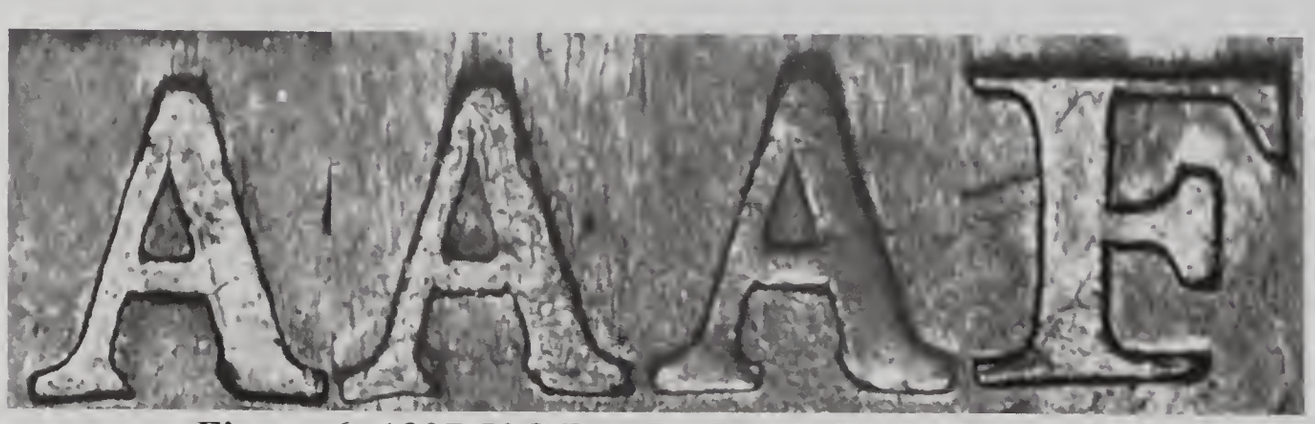


Figure 6: 1807 50C Rev B - Inside Right Serif A1, A2 & A3 Missing, New F Punch

You Can See Where The A Punch Broke

Take another look at Figures 2 and 3. You can see the inside right serif of the A punch break on 1803 $10 Reverse D and 1803 $10 Reverse E. The states of the letter A punch on these two reverse dies are as follows:

1. 1803 $10 Reverse D A1: Complete
2. 1803 $10 Reverse D A2: Complete
3. 1803 $10 Reverse D A3: Broken
4. 1803 $10 Reverse E A1: Broken
5. 1803 $10 Reverse E A2: Missing
6. 1803 $10 Reverse E A3: Missing

This sequence proves that the letters were punched into the coining die A1 first, then A2, then A3. Since the coining die is reversed intaglio, the letters were actually punched from right to left !!!

Half Dollar & Eagle Dies Have Identical A & F Punch States

Table 1 identifies the 6 letter punch states and whether they exist on Half Dollar reverse dies. Eagle reverse dies, or both Half Dollar and Eagle reverse dies. Die State 1 and Die State 5 of the letter punches exist on the reverse dies for both denominations. From this, one can conclude that the A and F letter punches used on Half Dollar reverse dies were the same A and F letter punches that were used on Eagle reverse dies.

Table 1 – Punch State By Denomination

Punch States	On 50C Dies	On $10 Dies
1. A complete, F complete	✓	✓
2. Inside right serif A complete or broken, F complete		✓
3. Inside right serif A broken or missing, F complete		✓
4. Inside right serif A missing, F complete	✓	
5. Inside right serif A missing, lower right serif F broken	✓	✓
6. Inside right serif A missing, New F punch	✓	

Conclusions

1. The A and F letter punches used on Half Dollar coining dies were the same letter punches used on Eagle coining dies.

2. One can therefore assume that the other letters on Half Dollar and Eagle coining dies originated from the same letter punches.

3. The Hubbs, dentils, stars and letter punches on Half Dollar and Eagle reverse dies are the same.

4. Half Dollar and Eagle dies are therefore one and the same.

New F Letter Punch Used With 1807 Dated Head Dies

The right base of the F punch first used with 1799 through 1806 dated head dies eventually broke. The lower right serif broke away from the punch, except for a tiny horizontal pointed tip that extended away from the vertical stem (see Figures 5-A and 5-B). This is seen on 3 Half Dollar reverse dies first used with 1805 head dies, 19 Half Dollar reverse dies first used with 1806 head dies, and the 1804 Proof Eagle reverse. All Half Dollar reverse dies, first used with 1807 dated head dies have an F that has a complete right serif. Upon close examination, it is easy to determine that the defective F punch was replaced with a new punch.

Figure 7 has 2 images of the complete letter F. The image on the left is from the F punch used on Half Dollar / Eagle reverse dies that were first used with 1799-1806 dated head dies. The image on the right is from the F punch used on Half Dollar reverse dies first used with 1807 dated head dies. The crossbar of the 1807 F looks like a trumpet, and the crossbar of the 1799-1806 F looks like a T rotated 90 degrees clockwise. In addition, the top and base of the 1807 F is longer than the 1799-1806 F, and the top left and bottom left serif on the 1807 F is thinner.

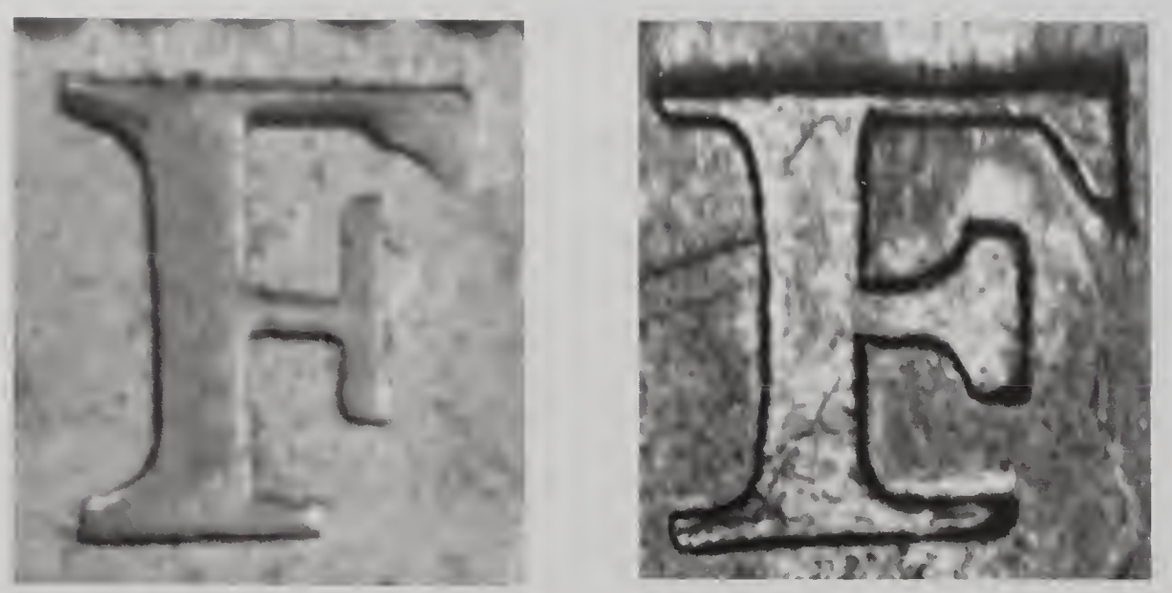


Figure 7: 1799-1806 F .vs. 1807 F

It is interesting to note that although the defective F punch was replaced, the defective A punch was not replaced. All reverse dies first used with 1807 dated head dies, utilized the A punch with the inside right serif missing.

Issue: The 1804 Proof Eagle Reverse Die

Multiple articles and publications exist documenting the evidence as to why the 1804 Proof Eagle was struck circa 1834-35. This article does not dispute that, however there are some new questions that have to be answered.

1. If the F letter punch used with 1799-1806 dated head dies broke, and was replaced with a new F letter punch, wouldn't the broken punch have been thrown out, scrapped, defaced, melted or recycled into something else?

2. Had the reverse die for the 1804 Proof Eagle been created circa 1834-35, wouldn't it have been made with the new F letter punch that was introduced with 1807 dated Half Dollars?

3. If the 1804 Proof Eagle reverse die was a leftover die from circa 1806, why wasn't it used with an 1807 dated Half Dollar head die?

Once again, just when I think I have some things resolved, additional questions are raised. The 1804 Proof Eagle reverse die will be revisited in a future article after more data is compiled about the other reverse design elements.

Punch States By Half Dollar Emission Order Sequence

Table 2 identifies the punch states for the 1801 through 1807 Draped Bust Half Dollar reverse dies in emission order sequence. The emission order is that published by Brad Higgins in the June, 2010 issue of the JRJ. Only the first use of a reverse die is included in the table.

Table 2 – Punch States By Half Dollar EO Sequence

Reverse	Punch State	Reverse	Punch State	Reverse	Punch State
1801 A	1	1806 F	5	1806 Q	5
1801 B / 1802 A	1	1806 E	4	1806 N	5
1803 A	1	1806 B	5	1806 R	5
1803 B	1	1806 A	5	1806 U	5
1803 C / 1805 H	1	1806 C	5	1806 O	5
1805 I	4	1806 H	5	1806 P	5
1805 G	4	1806 I	5	1806 M / 1807 F	5
1805 A	1	1806 T	5	1807 C	6
1805 B / 1806 D	4	1806 G	5	1807 E	6
1805 E	1	1806 J	5	1807 D	6
1805 C	5	1806 K	5	1807 A	6
1805 D	5	1806 L	5	1807 B	6
1805 F	5	1806 S	5		

The following is visually obvious from Table 2:

a. Reverse dies with Punch State 1 cannot have been created after a reverse die with Punch States 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, therefore 1805 Reverses A & E had to have been created before 1805 Reverse I.

b. Reverse dies with Punch State 4 cannot have been created after a reverse die with Punch State 5, therefore 1806 Reverse E had to have been created before 1805 Reverse C.

c. Reverse dies were not always used in the order that they were created.

Based on (a) and (b) above, the following is also visually obvious:

1. 1806 Reverse E, although created before 1806 Reverse F, 1805 Reverse F, D and C, was not used until after these 4 reverse dies were first used.

2. 1805 Reverse E, although created before 1805 Reverse B, G and I, was not used until after these 3 reverse dies and 1805 Reverse A were first used.

3. 1805 Reverse A, although created before 1805 Reverse G and I, was not used until after these 2 reverse dies were first used.

4. 1805 Reverse A and 1805 Reverse E, although created before 1805 Reverse G and I, were not used until after these 2 reverse dies were first used.

This proves that the Mint had 1 reverse die in reserve on multiple occasions and 2 different reverse dies in reserve on one occasion, in case the coining die that was in the screw press became unusable.

Acknowledgment

A special thank you goes out to Brad Higgins, who I consulted with during the development of this article, and who provided a sanity check of my data.

Notes

1. In late 1794 / early 1795, Robert Scot responded to questions posed "from the Committee appointed to examine and report on the state of the mint". This handwritten document resides in the National Archives. What numismatists refer to today as "Master Die", Robert Scot referred to as "Original Die". "Hub" was spelled "Hubb". "Working Die" was referred to as "Coining Die" or "Die To Strike Money". "Obverse Die" was referred to as "Head Die".

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An 1832 JR-5 in Glass
by Karl Lamson

In Volume 12, issue 3 of the John Reich Journal, Russ Logan authored an article titled "Slabbing Circa 1840" and described an 1834 JR-6 bust dime that was encapsulated in a glass pitcher. This article grabbed my attention, as I inherited a glass goblet which contained an 1832 bust dime. In September 2011 I had the good fortune of meeting Russ while he and his wife Brenda were on vacation, and we discussed half dimes and the collection of glassware containing coins that my father had collected over a period of thirty years. I had a wonderful time discussing coins for a whole afternoon, learning a great deal from Russ in a short time. Also, I was able to purchase a R-7 half dime from his "dupe" box! Russ encouraged me to write an article specifically about my goblet with the 1832 dime. Unfortunately, Russ passed away only a few months after I met him.

Then, in Volume 20, issue 1 Stephen Crain wrote about glassware containing coins, which reminded me that Mr. Logan had suggested that I write about my piece with the 1832 dime. So, after much delay, here goes –

My father traveled a lot as a salesman and had a wide variety of interests. He stopped at many antique shops, museums, places of historical significance, and whatever interested him. On April 30, 1957 in upstate New York at "a little old lady's antique shop," as he put it, he discovered a glass goblet with a coin in the stem that intrigued him. He had never seen anything like this and bought it for the sum of $ 9.50. Presumably, the asking price was $ 10 and he negotiated the price down to $ 9.50. Dad rarely paid full price for anything! The coin was an 1832 United States bust dime, which is the subject of this article. For the next many years he searched for additional glassware containing coins and was able to purchase several more, but the goblet that he purchased in 1957 is the only one that has an American coin in it. I inherited his collection in 1987.

The goblet is exactly 6" tall, 3 7/8" rim diameter, and 3 ½" base diameter. The wall of the glass is 1/8" thick; it is a heavy, sturdy glass with a beautiful ring when it is tapped very lightly. I've been told that this is something that should not be done with such a valuable piece of glass, but my father very much enjoyed hearing that wonderful, clear tone when he tapped it. The glass is colorless and has no chips, dings, or scratches.

We know that glassware with an enclosed coin has been made for centuries and often is made as special, presentation pieces to commemorate an event. This is still practiced in England today; for example, goblets are made to commemorate British royal events.

Based on a discussion Dad had in December 1977 with Raymond Barlow, an expert and author on Sandwich glass, and seeing a goblet that Mr. Barlow had on exhibit, Dad was convinced that his goblet with the 1832 dime was made at the Sandwich glass factory. However, in recent correspondence that I have had with Joan Kaiser, who co-authored books on Sandwich glass with Barlow, she says a lot has been learned since 1977, and indicated that because this goblet is heavy, the maker likely was not Sandwich. She says, "Heavy objects are generally thought to be New England Glass Company, South Boston Flint Glass Works, and Cains Glass House." She also said that there are examples of glassware with encapsulated coins made at Sandwich, and "Numerous coin-enclosed objects were also produced at Thomas Cains' glass house in South Boston." According to Ms. Kaiser, the construction of my goblet is typical England and New England construction.

In my research I discovered that the Corning Museum of Glass has a goblet that is identical to mine, except theirs is engraved. The material, form, and dimensions are identical, and the construction method is the same. The Corning example contains a U.S. 1821 bust dime in the knop and is engraved "JA 1838." (For those who are interested, Corning's accession number on this goblet is 70.2.1.) Corning's curator of American glass, Jane Shadel Spillman, replied to my inquiry that she was surprised that there is a goblet with an American coin in their collection in the European department of their museum. Corning had attributed it to England. "However," she said, "since you have one which also has an American coin and is the same shape and size, I do wonder if both are from the same glasshouse, and perhaps an American one." Ms. Kaiser's opinion is that it is more likely that both of these goblets were made in an American glasshouse.

So, we do not know for certain where this goblet with the 1832 dime was made, but it seems most likely to have been made by either the New England Glass Company in Cambridge, Massachusetts or Cains Glass House in the 1830's. Perhaps it was Thomas Cains' creation; he is known for making glassware with encapsulated coins at that time.

At any rate, it is a remarkable goblet, and fortunately, it is possible to closely examine the coin that was encapsulated in the knop. It is a high grade 1832 JR-5 which exhibits numerous die cracks. The following description of cracks is in the same order as in Early United States Dimes 1796 - 1837, by David Davis, et al.

Obverse cracks:

#1. From the rim above star 7, through the cap, and to the rim above star 8._

#2. From the rim at star 12, through the bottom half of star 12, and to the curl at star 13.

#3. From the point at 2 o'clock on star 1 to the bust, along the edge of the bust all the way to directly above the digit "1" in date. This crack is much longer than what is described in the text. It is faint from star 1 to the bust.

#4. A fourth crack goes through the left side of star 2 and out the star tip at 6 o'clock to the star tip at 11 o'clock on star 1. It also goes out the star tip at 11 o'clock on star 2 and up towards star 3 but does not reach star 3. There also is a crack through the right side of star 3, not connected to the previously mentioned crack.

#5. A fifth crack goes from the point at 11 o'clock on star 8 to the cap. This is in addition to crack #1 noted above which is above star 8. This fifth crack is not mentioned in the text.

Another item about the obverse is that there is significant evidence of rust on the die. Areas that are affected on this specimen are the eye, cheek, neck, the area below the clasp, and the cap, especially the eye and cheek. The text mentions rust above the date and on the cap above E. On this specimen the area above the date is minimally affected, while the area on the cap above E is easily noticed. The cheek is especially affected. It looks like Miss Liberty has a terrible complexion and she's crying!

Regarding the rusted die, Louis Scuderi's article in Volume 13, Issue 3 about wet weather in Philadelphia in October 1833 is interesting. Is it possible that the 1832

obverse die #2 became rusted due to the high humidity in late 1833, causing the JR-2's and JR-5's to show rust damage? Were these two 1832 varieties minted in late 1833 or early 1834?

Reverse cracks:

#1. From rim to E2, but this does not appear to continue to the scroll, unlike what is described in the text for 1832 JR-4, the previous use of this reverse die.

#2. From rim to M, but this does not appear to continue to the wing.

#3. From rim to A3.

#4. From rim through the 0 of "10C" up through the feathers and claws.

#5 & 6. There are two cracks from the left wing to the leaves.

#7. There also is a crack from the rim to a leaf end; this is the leaf closest to "U." However, on this specimen I am unable to see a crack from the wing to U, as is described in the text.

#8 & 9. There are two more cracks not listed in the text. I note that the final use of this reverse is 1833 JR-3, and these two cracks are not listed in the text for the final use of this reverse die. One crack is from the rim to E3; the other is from the rim to R and then to the wing. These two cracks are very faint.

I'll leave it to the dime specialists to interpret this information in relation to the text. This appears to be an earlier die state than what is described in the text, and yet, it has cracks not listed in the text.

As for the grade, Russ Logan inspected this back in 2001 and said it's not mint state but is very close. He also said that although the coin is immobile inside the knop of the goblet, he thought that originally it was free to move around inside and that at some point in history it became stuck in one position. However, I do not see any evidence of the coin making any marks on the inside of the glass, and due

to the way this goblet was made, I think the coin has been gently held in the same position by the glass walls of the knop ever since the goblet was made some 180 or so years ago. Remarkably, this really is a time capsule, and nothing has touched the surfaces of this coin except the tiny amount of air inside the knop. The surfaces are as original as we will ever see. I calculated the volume of air inside the knop as approximately one-half cubic inch. There was not much oxygen to react with the silver in this coin! Also, because the coin is immobile, the inside surface of the glass has remained scratch free, allowing clear visual inspection of the coin.

To be completely accurate, I note that there is a scratch on the obverse at star 13 and a tiny dark brown spot in the area of the clasp. On the reverse there are a couple dark brown specks between the back of the eagle's head and UM in the motto. Coincidentally, this area is approximately opposite the tiny brown spot on the obverse. Is this foreign matter from the fingers of the glassblower?

Checking the census reports in the "John Reich Journal", I found only three specimens of 1832 JR-5 graded higher than this: a 65, 64, and a 60. It would be interesting to compare the die states. Hopefully, the photos and description of this coin will interest dime collectors. However, the photos do not show all the cracks.

For years Dad had this goblet on display in our home, and we sometimes joked about how we should break it to get that coin out! Fortunately today it is still intact. A survey of museums shows that it is a rarity to find antique glassware containing a coin; most of them met the fate of being broken, either intentionally or accidentally. Today, this goblet is carefully stored. Even though it is not on display, I enjoy just knowing that I have it and that it's been in my family for the last 55 years.






LIBERTY




LIBERTY

2013 Early Silver Dollar Census
W. David Perkins, NLG

This survey marks the seventh early dollar census published since the first issue of the *John Reich Journal* was published in January 1986.

The first early dollar census was published in the October 1990 issue of the *Journal.* The most recent early dollar census was published in the *John Reich Journal,* Volume 21 / Issue 1, February 2011.

[*Back issues with these previous early dollar censuses (and other articles) may still be available. For availability and information regarding back issues, please contact Richard Meaney, JRCS.*]

Grading for the 2013 Census

As in the past, JRCS has always used the numerical grades as sent in by the member participants for the early dollar census. ***Some coins included in the census are "raw" and some coins are "slabbed." Early dollars with "slab grades" include examples from at least six different grading services. The grades as provided by the owners are the grades that are included for the JRCS Census.***

Over the last few years we have seen the advent of new *add-ons* to the grades on certified coins. Examples include both CAC stickers and the new PCGS "Plus Grades." These designations are not noted in the early dollar census but were included with some of the submissions.

I will point out that a number of the early dollars in a couple of the collections included in this census are counterstamped. The grade used in this census is typically the grade of the coin and not the counterstamp.

Rarity Ratings

The rarity ratings in this census are mine. I have made one change to the rarity ratings from the previous JRCS Early Dollar Census. A fourth specimen of the 1795 B-16, BB-23 die marriage was discovered in 2012, reducing the rarity rating for this die marriage from R-8 to high R-7. The new specimen is graded PCGS VG-08. This specimen recently found a new home in a JRCS early dollar specialist's collection.

The 1795 B-10, BB-22 die marriage remains a low R-7 for the time being. To date we have documented 12 specimens. There may be 13 specimens if the Haseltine Coin (1881 Haseltine *Type Table* Sale) ***is not*** one of the twelve examples known today. I believe the Haseltine Specimen is most likely one of the 12 known which is why the rarity rating has not been reduced to high R-6.

For the 2011-12 JRCS early dollar census the 1798 B-32, BB-91 die marriage was lowered from R-7 to high R-6. Thirteen specimens are known to me today.

Three rarity ratings were changed for the 2007-8 Census. The 1795 B-12, BB-26 die marriage was lowered from R-6 to R-5; 1798 B-4, BB-92 was increased from R-4 to R-5; and 1800 B-20, BB-185 was lowered from R-7 to R-6 after a number of new specimens were reported over the previous two years. Most of these new specimens were offered on e-bay and most of these were in lower grades. My thanks go out to all of the JRCS members who reported new early dollar die marriage discoveries to me.

As always, I am interested in our members' feedback on the rarity ratings.

Analysis and Comments

Fifteen collections were submitted for the 2013 early dollar census. Totals for each die marriage in the census include number of specimens (PCS), the average grade (AVG) and the highest grade listed (MAX); totals by collection include the total number of die marriages and average grade overall for the collection.

As in the prior three censuses, I have chosen not to include duplicates in the total "number of specimens." Most of the duplicates were of die marriages with rarity ratings from R-1 to R-5. Including duplicates tends to lower both the average grade (for die marriages with duplicates) and to lower the overall grade of the *primary* collection containing these duplicates. It is important to include duplicates for purposes of determining rarity ratings, and this was done.

The biggest event to take place since the previous early dollar census was the sale of the Dr. Robert Hesselgesser Collection and his duplicates. The majority of this large die variety collection was sold via public auction in Ira & Larry Goldberg's *The Dr. Hesselgesser Collection of Early Silver Dollars, Part II*, September 5, 2011. The 2011-2 early dollar census shows the Hesselgesser collection had at one time a total of 109 different die marriages. A number of JRCS collectors took advantage of the sale to fill holes and upgrade their collections.

As in the previous Census, we have one complete collection consisting of all of the 118 regular strike die marriages. This collection has a very high overall average grade of AU-52. Enhancing this collection are silver plug center 1795 Flowing Hair Dollars, multiple die states of selected marriages, specimens that are double struck and other mint errors. Only one coin for each of the 118 different die marriages in this collection was included in this census, that with the highest numerical grade.

There are four 1794 Dollars included in the 2013 census.

This year's census includes only two examples of the extremely rare 1795 B-8, BB-15 die marriage. There are four specimens of 1795 B-10, BB-22 and five of 1795 B-11, BB-12, both which are R-7 die marriages. Two of the (now) four known 1795 B-16 Dollars are listed in this census. Two of the three of known 1795 B-20, BB-16 Dollars are included in the census, as are both of the known 1795 B-22, BB-29 die marriages.

For 1796, we have both of the confirmed examples of the R-8 1796 B-3, BB-62 die marriage included in the census. The three known examples of 1796 B-6, BB-64 (R-8) are included; all three of these specimens have the large vertical die break bisecting the right one third of the reverse.

The "Dollars of 1798" are a favorite of mine. Once again, three of the five known examples of 1798 B-18 are included in this census, with the finest known example grading VF-20. All of the other examples known exist in grades ranging from AG to VG. All of the three known examples of the 1798 B-33 die marriage are again included in this year's census.

I hope you enjoy the 2013 JRCS Early Dollar Census.

[*I would like to thank Steve Herrman for his help editing this 2013 Early Dollar Census.*]



Reverse 1796 B-6 Dollar ex. Reiver

Reverse of the 1796 B-6, BB-64 silver dollar, with a heavy vertical die break bisecting the right one third of the reverse. Three specimens are known to me, all with this reverse die break. This specimen is ex. Jules Reiver and is now in a prominent western specialists' collection.



WG & Co. Counterstamp

A number of counterstamped early dollars are included in the 2013 census. This is one of my all time favorites, and is in a Midwest JRCS member's collection and is included in this census. This specimen was Lot 1607 in the July 1998 *The W. J. Noble Collection of British Tokens* **sale which took place in Australia.**

Year	B#	BB#	R#	310	951	101	018	429	1153	1054	897	165	1072	729	893	716	013	1195	PCS	AVG	MAX
1794	1	1	4	40		12	12											25	4	22	40
1795	1	21	2	40	25	45	15	12		20			3						7	23	45
	2	20	3	40	15	15		12		10	30				40				7	23	40
	3	11	5	58	30		20	8		10			20						6	24	58
	4	14	3	45	15	12		4			35								5	22	45
	5	27	1	55	20	30	35			12	35	30	6						8	28	55
	6	25	3	45	30	35	53				25								5	38	53
	7	18	3	40	15	30													3	28	40
	8	15	7	40	6														2	23	40
	9	13	4	45	15	35	45												4	35	45
	10	22	7	40	25						15		40						4	30	40
	11	12	7	40	35	8	40				40								5	33	40
	12	26	5	45	25	20	15	15		30				35					7	26	45
	13	24	5	50	35	25	40					30				30			6	35	50
	14	51	2	50	30	45	50	40	55	12									7	40	55
	15	52	2	60	20	40	55	25	25	45			3	40	30				10	34	60
	16	23	7	40	8														2	24	40
	18	17	8	58															1	58	58
	19	19	8	6															1	6	6
	20	16	8	10						15									2	13	15
	21	28	8	10															1	10	10
	22	29	8	20		6													2	13	20
1796	1	66	4	45	12	35	45	20	50	25			20						8	32	50
	2	63	4	53	12	20	35	15	45	35									7	31	53
	3	62	8	53	15														2	34	53
	4	61	3	50	30	30	40	20		25			30		50				8	34	50
	5	65	4	50	20	35	45	45	40	35	40	15	40						10	37	50
	6	64	8	35						45			20						3	33	45
1797	1	73	3	63	30	40	40	30	50	40		50		50	45				10	44	63
	2	72	4	50	30	20	40	15	45		20								7	31	50
	3	71	2	61	35	35	40	45	35	40									7	42	61
1798	1	82	3	60	15	30	45	12	58	12	45								8	35	60
	2	81	3	63	20	40	55	12	45						30				7	38	63
	3	94	5	63	30	30	40	12	58		40	45	45	50					10	41	63
	4	92	5	63	35	40	40	45	40	45	50	55							9	46	63
	5	93	6	53	12	12	20	55	25			50	40	45					9	35	55
	6	96	3	55	40	45	50		45										5	47	55
	7	95	5	45	30	30	15	10	25		45	45	20						9	29	45
	8	125	2	55	20	55	45	45	45			58	35	40					9	44	58
	9	121	5	55	45	45	40	40	55	12	55	45							9	44	55
	10	109	5	62	15	20	25	15	53	30	50	50							9	36	62

Year	B#	BB#	R#	310	951	101	018	429	1153	1054	897	165	1072	729	893	716	013	1195	PCS	AVG	MAX
1798	11	111	3	55	20	15	35	25	53			45		45					8	37	55
	12	120	4	45	12	45	12	8	35	45	50		15						9	30	50
	13	108	3	58	35	45	55	25		40									6	43	58
	14	122	3	55	25	53	50	30	53	35		45	40						9	43	55
	15	112	3	61	20	45	25	45	55	40		50							8	43	61
	16	110	6	55	35	20	20	25	40		45	62	35						9	37	62
	17	101	5	53	20	10	53	40	25		53	55							8	39	55
	18	103	7	6					4			20							3	10	20
	19	106	5	50	20	35	40	30	55		50	58							8	42	58
	20	102	5	55	45	30	45	15	50	20	55	55							9	41	55
	21	107	5	55	35	58	50	35	45	40	50		10						9	42	58
	22	104	4	55	40	20		40	55										5	42	55
	23	105	3	55	40	40	53	35	58	45		40							8	46	58
	24	124	2	55	35	55	15	40	53	45	45	55			55				10	45	55
	25	123	4	50	20	30	45	45	61	40		55							8	43	61
	26	114	5	58	12		55	35	45	35	40	61	40						9	42	61
	27	113	2	55	25	55	53	20	50										6	43	55
	28	118	3	55	25	45	50	30	50		45	55							8	44	55
	29	119	4	50	25	35	8	40	50		45	45							8	37	50
	30	116	5	58	25	35	50	20	45		58	58							8	44	58
	31	115	5	58	30	35	55	45	50	35	45	45		53					10	45	58
	32	91	7	40	15	20	40		25	3	40	55	61						9	33	61
	33	117	8	50								53	35						3	46	53
1799	1	142	4	50	20	25	55	15	53	35				50					8	38	55
	2	143	4	55	20	45	55	25	58		58								7	45	58
	3	141	3	61	30	45	50	25	55										6	44	61
	4	153	4	55	25	35	53	20	58		50								7	42	58
	5	157	2	62	20	53	50	30	58	35									7	44	62
	6	162	4	58	20	30	55	25	50	40									7	40	58
	7	156	4	58	20	25	53	35	55		50			45					8	43	58
	8	165	3	62	40	35	50	40	58	45	53								8	48	62
	9	166	1	58	30	45	50	30	61	25				55			25		9	42	61
	10	163	2	61	25	30	45	45	55	35			15						8	39	61
	11	161	3	62	45	40	55	45	55	30			3	45					9	42	62
	12	160	3	62	12	30	50	40	55	15									7	38	62
	13	151	5	58	25	25	50	25	45	45									7	39	58
	14	167	3	58	25	40	53	45	53	20									7	42	58
	15	152	3	45	25	30	40	40	55			53	15						8	38	55
	16	158	2	64	25	40	53	45	58	45									7	47	64
	17	164	2	50	15	40	53	35	55	20	50								8	40	55
	18	154	5	58	35	45	45	45	55	20	40								8	43	58

Year	B#	BB#	R#	310	951	101	018	429	1153	1054	897	165	1072	729	893	716	013	1195	PCS	AVG	MAX
1799	19	155	5	55	25	30	50	30	53	35	45			53					9	42	55
	21	169	3	50	30	30	45	45	45	40									7	41	50
	22	168	5	45	40	30	50	45	50	30	40		15						9	38	50
	23	159	4	61	55	53	55	40	53						40				7	51	61
1800	1	181	5	53	30	25	40	30	40	35	35		55						9	38	55
	2	182	6	55	25	25	30	25	45	45	40								8	36	55
	3	183	5	45	8	30		25	53										5	32	53
	4	186	4	61	25	8		30	50										5	35	61
	5	189	5	58	40	20	45	35	58	20				40					8	40	58
	8	188	4	55	20	45	50	45		40	45								7	43	55
	10	190	3	58	40	53		40	58	45									6	49	58
	11	191	5	53	15	40	50	30	45				15						7	35	53
	12	184	3	55	50	40	50	30	50	40			30						8	43	55
	13/18	193	4	55	30	53	53		45	40	55	53		40	35				10	46	55
	14	194	3	55	35	55	53	30	50	20									7	43	55
	15	195	4	50	15	45	50	20	45	12	50								8	36	50
	16	187	2	50	20	45	53	30	45								20		7	38	53
	17	196	1	58	25	30	55	45		45	45								7	43	58
	19	192	2	55	45	30	50	30		10	50	35							8	38	55
	20	185	6	53	45	25	50	25	50	45	40		8						9	38	53
1801	1	211	3	50	30	45	50	35	55	45						20			8	41	55
	2	212	3	58	20	12	55	45	50	45	50					20			9	39	58
	3	213	3	50	15	50	50		55	45			20		40	15			9	38	55
	4	214	4	55	20	35		8	53							25			6	33	55
	5	301	7											40					1	40	40
1802	1	231	4	55	12	30	58	20	50	30	45								8	38	58
	2	233	4	50	20	15	50	15	40	35	40								8	33	50
	3	234	3	61	25	15	50	40	50	45				50					8	42	61
	4	232	4	58	12	25	45	30	50	35									7	36	58
	5	242	5	55	35	40	58	45	45		53			40					8	46	58
	6	241	1	58	35	35	50	40	58						35				7	44	58
	8	302	7																		
	9	235	5	58	20	15	40	20		12	45		25						8	29	58
1803	1	251	4	58	25	45	50	50	40		40				40				8	44	58
	3	256	6	53	25	40	12	30	45	20	40			50					9	35	53
	4	254	3	58	20	30	55		50	15									6	38	58
	5	252	3	61	35	50		45	55				20						6	44	61
	6	255	2	62	40	55	45	30	55	35	45			50					9	46	62
	7	303	7																		
Die Marriage Total				**118**	**109**	**105**	**97**	**94**	**89**	**70**	**51**	**32**	**31**	**20**	**11**	**5**	**2**	**1**	**121 Known**		
Average Grade				**52**	**26**	**34**	**44**	**31**	**49**	**31**	**44**	**48**	**25**	**46**	**40**	**22**	**23**	**25**			



Hesselgesser Sale Catalog Cover

Cover of the sale catalog for the Ira and Larry Goldberg sale of
The Dr. Hesselgesser Collection of Early Silver Dollars, Part II.
This sale represented the majority of the 107 different die marriages and other silver dollars from the Hesselgesser Collection.
This sale took place on the afternoon of September 5, 2011.

Do Improperly Struck 1814 Half Dollars Provide a Window into Quality Control at the U.S. Mint?

By Henry Hilgard

Introduction

In 1814 The United States was fighting for its survival as the "War of 1812" raged on throughout the year. In fact, in the summer of 1814 the outcome of the war was very much in doubt because the British, having just defeated Napoleon's France in Europe in the spring, began to pour additional troops and resources onto U.S. soil. In August of 1814 the British marched into Washington, D.C. and burned many government buildings, including our President's Mansion (which was later painted white to hide the damage and, according to legend, then became widely known as the "White House").

There was also concern that the British would march into Philadelphia, home of the U.S. Mint. Although Philadelphia did not become a battleground, the activities of the Mint proceeded with difficulty, in no small part because of a limited supply of silver and gold (hoarded by the citizens) and copper (no longer obtainable from England). The economy was in recession, and the value of U.S. Treasury notes, issued to finance the war, fell below that of specie - money in the form of coins. An indication of the severity of the problems at the Mint is that only 4 denominations of coins (out of the 10 denominations authorized by the Coinage Act of 1792[1]) were struck in 1814: half eagles, half dollars, dimes and cents. With regard to half dollars, the number minted, 1,039,075, was fewer than in any year since 1806. And finally, although mint errors of bust half dollars are rare in general, there are at least 8 half dollar errors known from 1814 that resulted from faulty striking.

The term "mint error" can refer to several types of errors: diecutter's errors, such as the E in STATES cut over an earlier A on the reverse of the 1814 Overton-108 variety; edge lettering errors, for example coins that went through the edge lettering machine twice; planchet preparation errors, such as clipped planchets; and striking errors that occurred when the coin was being struck in the screw press. The subjects of this study are the striking errors.

The Striking Process

The basic striking process[2] for half dollars in the screw press was as follows: (1) when the dies were apart a blank planchet with a lettered edge was fed into the coining chamber by "feed-fingers"[3] that placed the planchet directly over the lower (anvil) die, and (2) two or more strong men operated the press so that so that the upper (hammer) die, which was centered over the anvil die, came down forcefully to strike the planchet into a coin. The feed-fingers slid back and forth horizontally

between a feed-tube[4], which dropped a planchet into their grasp, and the coining chamber, where they deposited the planchet over the die. On their way to depositing the planchet over the die the feed-fingers' most distant part pushed out the previously struck coin.

Striking Error Types

When something went wrong during the striking of 1814 half dollars, the results included the following types of errors:

1. Off Center Strike. In an off center strike both sides of the coin are almost always off center by the same amount, as is seen on this 1814 Overton-108a variety (Figure 1) that is struck off center by about 5%, and on the 1814 O-106 (Figure 2) that is off center by about 8%. In this case the errors probably came about because the feed-fingers did not place the blank planchet properly over the anvil die in the coining chamber.



Figure 1. 1814 O-108a, off center by about 5%.



Figure 2. 1814 O-106, off center by about 8%

2. **Misaligned Die Strike**. In a misaligned die strike, the coin's obverse and reverse are not located directly across from each other. This 1814 Overton-107 (Figure 3) is an example in which the obverse is off center by about 3%, so that the tip of the bust and the bottoms of the 18 in the date are touching the edge of the coin, but the reverse of the coin is struck on center. In this case the feed-fingers seem to have done their job of placing the coin properly over the anvil die (in this case the reverse die); the error occurred because the obverse die was not centered over the reverse die at the time of striking.



Figure 3. 1814 O-107, misaligned die. The obverse is off center by about 3%, but the reverse is struck on center.

3. **Off Center and Misaligned Die Strike**. This 1814 Overton-101a (Figure 4) represents an unusual error in that two types of striking errors are found at once. Both obverse and reverse of the coin are off center, but the obverse is off center by about 4% while the reverse is off center by about 10%, making this a misaligned die error as well as an off center error. It is likely that both die alignment and feed-finger malfunctions contributed to this error.



Figure 4. 1814 O-101a, off center and misaligned die. The obverse is off center by about 4%, while the reverse is off center by about 10%.

4. **Double Strike with First Strike Off Center**. A line of dentils on the reverse of this 1814 Overton-108a (Figure 5) indicates that the first strike on this coin was about 38% off center. The marks on its obverse between the date and star 13 are from the olive leaves and stems of the reverse of the first strike (Figure 6). The second (normal) strike on this coin was almost certainly done on purpose to cover up the mistake that had happened during the first strike.



Figure 5. 1814 O-108a, double struck. The first strike is off center by about 38%, and the second strike is on center.



Figure 6. Details of the double struck 1814 O-108a. The obverse marks (left panel) are from the olive leaves and stems of a first reverse strike

5. **Double Strike with First Strike Brockage**. In the screw press a brockage error occurs when a blank planchet enters the coining chamber and lands on top of an already-struck coin that the feed-fingers have failed to eject. The blank planchet will then be hit normally by the upper (hammer) die, but its other side will receive an indented (incuse) impression from the already-struck coin that sits underneath it on the anvil die. This incuse impression is the brockage. The obverse of this 1814 Overton-101 (Figure 7) shows incuse stars below the date on its obverse from the coin that it was struck against, and the obverse of the 1814 O-104 (Figure 8) shows incuse stars above the cap. Details of the incuse stars of both of these coins are shown in Figure 9. Because these stars are features of the obverses of bust halves, the first strikes on both of these coins were brockages of the obverses. The normal sides (obverses) of the first strikes of these coins were relatively well centered, as can be determined from the details of these obverses that remain on the reverses of the second strikes. As is usually the case, the second strikes eradicated most, but not all, of the detail from the first strikes.



Figure 7. 1814 O-101, double struck. The first strike was a brockage of the obverse. Note the incuse stars below the date.



Figure 8. 1814 O-104, double struck. The first strike was a brockage of the obverse. Note the incuse stars above Miss Liberty's cap.



Figure 9. Details of the incuse stars on the 1814 O-101a brockage (top) and the 1814 O-104 brockage (bottom).

6. **Double Strike with First Strike a Dramatically Off Center Brockage**. The first strike on this 1814 O-103 (Figure 10) was off center by about 48%, as can be seen by the line of dentils on the obverse (Figure 11). On the reverse there is clear evidence that the first strike was also a brockage of the obverse: easiest to see are a part of an incuse "8" from the date over the T in STATES, and an indented star over the E in AMERICA (Figure 12).



Figure 10. 1814 O-103, double struck. The first strike was about 48% off center and a brockage of the obverse.



Figure 11. Detail of the obverse of the off center and brockage O.103. The dentils from the first strike traverse Miss Liberty's hair, the field behind her head, and Star 8.



Figure 12. Details of the reverse of the off center and brockage O-103, showing part of an incuse "8" (top panel) and an indented star (bottom panel), both from the brockage first strike.

Quality Control?

Because contemporary documentation has not been found, we have very little direct knowledge about quality control at the early U.S. Mint. The study of mint errors, however, has the potential to provide indirect insights into quality control. So I wanted to see if the these eight 1814 half dollar mint errors could cast some light on the subject.

Six of these eight 1814 errors have an off center strike, with the percentage of the off center strike ranging from 3% (the misaligned die strike), to 5% and 8% (the 2 off center strikes), a combination of 4% and 10% (the misaligned and off center piece), 38% (the double strike with first strike off center) and finally 48% (the double strike with first strike a dramatically off center brockage). We know that some quality control did exist, because the two farthest off center errors (38% and 48%) were "corrected" by striking them again to make them look more respectable. And since there was enough quality control to catch those errors, it seems unlikely that a quality control inspector would have missed seeing the lesser off center errors, especially the 8% off center O.106. So we may hypothesize that the lesser off center errors were also noticed, but that only the most dramatic ones were selected for correction.

Further evidence of quality control is provided by the two 1814 halves that were first struck as relatively well-centered brockages, and then were selected for restriking to cover up the brockage feature. In fact, quality control was quite good for half dollar brockages throughout the entire 1807-1836 period, because only 2 uncorrected half dollar brockages are currently known for the entire capped bust series[5].

Large cent brockages tell a different story. The Richard Picker collection of brockages[6], sold by Coin Galleries in 1989, had two uncorrected large cent 1814 brockages, even though the large cent mintage in 1814 was significantly smaller than the half dollar mintage. And in total Picker was able to amass an astounding 44 uncorrected large cent brockages for the years 1807 through 1836. These numbers indicate that there was much less quality control for large cents, surely reflecting less concern at the Mint about how large cents looked compared to the appearance of half dollars.

In conclusion, these eight striking errors are consistent with the hypothesis that quality control was exercised for half dollars at the U.S. Mint in 1814, and that only the most blatant and dramatic half dollar errors were chosen to be struck a second time in order to cover up the original error. Therefore these improperly struck coins do seem to provide a window into quality control at the Mint. Nevertheless, the view through that window would be clearer if there were more coins available for analysis.

Acknowledgment:

Acknowledgment: I thank David Kahn for contributing the images of his lovely double struck 1814 O-103 (Figures 10 through 12).

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Small Capped Quarters: Mintage Survivorship Relative to Estimated Scarcity

By Mike Rupert

I have been an ardent collector of the small capped quarter series for some time. I fondly remember my first one, found down in the lower left corner of a dealer's case – an 1837 B1. In those days, I saved for months and prowled the bourse floor until I spent every dime, often looking for a certain type or denomination as needed to round out my collection. The dealer graciously allowed me to take the coin to a trusted friend and get a second opinion as I was still developing my grading skills. I bought the coin for the grey sheet price and merrily went on my way, later certifying it as an AU 50.

Fast forward several years to late 1996 when I decided that a date set would be just the thing for me. I traveled to the Drawbridge show in Covington Kentucky with a pocket full of cash and stayed for two days. My 1831 was a B1 acquired in a trade with a dealer friend, which later certified as an AU 55. Then I had an experience that profoundly forged my collecting interests for many years to come. I had spotted an 1833 B1 at JJ Teaparty's table but was baulking at the price. When Ray Hinkelman found out I purchased the 1833 B2 from another dealer at almost the same money, he quietly suggested that I get the one from Liz also. Best advice I ever was given. The B2 later certified at XF 45 but the B1 went AU 50. Off I go to Baltimore in November purchasing only the 1838 B1 but seeing a choice, and expensive, 1836 B4.

Quietly over the next two years I acquire the requisite date set upgrading as I went. But then I decide to break up my type set and start the insane quest of trying to complete the series by die marriages. Prices being what they were, I purchased a number of choice specimens of the more common marriage. By the time I met Rory Rea and Jim Koenings in October 2001, I had somewhere around 21 of the marriages. I slowly acquired more through 2003, missing out on the Reiver auction, but succeeding in acquiring one of his 1835 B4's from Jade Rare Coin later. I grabbed the remaining few as I could until everything ground to a halt because the remaining holes were more difficult to fill.

The end of last year saw several notable achievements which profoundly impacted my thoughts about my quest in the small quarter series as a whole. The lesser of the two was finally picking up an 1831 B6. Continually exercising my attribution skills using various auction sites including Ebay led to the discovery that PCGS had misattributed a Large Letters reverse. The coup de grace was finally broaching R5 territory by cherry picking from an auction the 1834 B5 unattributed in an NGC XF 45 holder. Recalling an interesting comment I read in the new Reeded Edge Half Dollar book by Dick Graham, I began to contemplate the probabilities of acquiring the five remaining marriages, thus the point of my narrative.

The comment in Dick's book actually came from Steve Tomkins where he wrote that the estimated survival percentage for the small capped quarter mintage is approximately 10% . After some analysis, I must take some exception to this claim.
The Tomkins book calculates the total mintage at 4,436,400 pieces. Rory's book, which I contributed to, pegs that number at 4,202,400. So let's look at the chart below:

Rarity No.	Max per R No.	No. of Varieties	Totals	Estimates for Survivorship	
R8	3	1	3	Total Mintage	4,402,400
R6	30	1	30	10%	440,240
R5	75	4	300		
R4	200	6	1200	Total R2 –R8	17,033
R3	500	6	3000		
R2	1250	10	12500	Total R1s	403,207
R1	?	8			
Totals		36	17033	Per R1	50,401

Allowing for the maximum number of specimens per rarity rating, we only account for 3.87% of the "accepted" 10% for estimated survivors. That leaves over 50,000 for each R1, an unlikely probability. So I draw one of two conclusions – that the Sheldon rarity scale is vastly outdated or that the realistic population of surviving small capped quarters is more likely around 1% which allocates each R1 a maximum of 2901 specimens. I opt for the latter over the former and peg the number at 1.3% with 5,000 or so specimens per R1. This leaves the Sheldon scale intact unless there is reason for a major overhaul in the collective thinking. Another possibility is the adoption of a rarity scale similar to the one used for Civil War tokens adding R9 and readjusting the estimated populations as necessary.

The reason I share my thoughts is because of the remaining marriages needed, the accepted maximum number of estimated specimens is 216. For a man of relatively modest means, that my friends is an extremely daunting task. Originally I set the bar at the original 32 Browning varieties. I only need one more. One the "new" four is obtainable because I once just missed, at the last second, an unattributed 1837 B5 in an NGC XF 40 holder for grey sheet wholesale money. As for the other three, maybe the gods will smile from the heavens down upon me.



New Specimen of the Very Rare 1806 O-127a Half Dollar Discovered
W. David Perkins, NLG

This specimen was unattributed when purchased by Vic Bozarth of Bozarth Numismatics, Inc. of Brenham, Texas. Vic Bozarth sent this coin to JRCS member Mike Clark who had the enjoyable task of attributing and discovering a new specimen of this very rare die marriage.

The August 2012 JRCS Pre-Turban Bust Half Dollar Census (PTHD) included six specimens of the R-6+ 1806 O-127 die marriage, five of which were listed in the "Top 15 Collections" by grade (25-12-12-10-3). The 4th Edition of *United States Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794-1836* lists the Condition Census as 20-20-15-12-12.

In a note to me dated March 28, 2013 Steve Herrman wrote:

> "There are now 18-20 specimens known for 1806 O.127. Nearly all examples are the "a" variety and low grade. The new PCGS VF25 specimen may be the finest known example or tied for the finest known with the VF25 specimen listed in the recent JRCS PTHD census. I am fairly certain that the JRCS census piece is not an EDS, but I do not know what type of slab it is in. I believe that all three VF20 specimens with problems listed in the AMBPR have VF20 detail or thereabout."
>
> [*Auction & Mail Bid Prices Realized for Bust Half Dollars 1794-1839* (AMBPR) includes three specimens that were graded as VF-20. The first specimen is described as VF-20 with "a bit of porosity, cloudy surfaces." The second specimen is VF-20 NCS, with "an 'X' scr obv 2 'X' scr rev." The third specimen is noted as "Ex. Meyer #15, "two lt scr obv."]

According to AMBPR, the last specimen of this die marriage that was sold was in December 2009.

Sheridan Downey reported two new specimens of this die marriage in the JRJ Volume 3/ Issue 2/3, December 1988. The first was an 1806 O-127 "without die break" through star 6. Sheridan called it "a solid VF to boot." This specimen was discovered by Elliot Goldman of Allstate Coins. The other specimen was a specimen of O-127a in low grade called "Choice AG" by Sheridan.

I have not seen this new specimen yet, nor do I have a photo to include with this announcement. You are welcome to contact me at wdperki@attglobal.net if you have any questions or if you would like to see a photo of this specimen when I get one.



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